Remarks

Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments and consideration of the application, as amended. After entry of the amendments, claims 1 and 4-72 are pending. Claims 2 and 3 have been rewritten as claims 25 and 51, respectively. Support for the new claims can be found throughout the specification (e.g., pages 60-67), and therefore, no new matter has been added.

In addition, paragraph 1 on page 64 has been amended to correct two typographical errors. The first is to indicate the correct number of iterations for the equation. As shown in the examples, if there are 3 equidistant servers, then there are 3 iterations. Since k begins at 0, it should state: "or k=0 to the number of servers-1," as supported by the examples in the specification. The second correction is to balance the parenthesis. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification (e.g., pages 64-66), and therefore, no new matter has been added.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121, a version with markings to show changes made is provided on one or more pages separate from the amendment. These pages are appended at the end of the Amendment.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this application, please call applicants' attorney at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: April 12, 2002

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<u>**Version with markings to show changes made**</u>

<u>**In the Specification:**</u>

On page 1, paragraphs 2-5, lies 11-25 and page 2, paragraphs 1-3, lines 1-11 have been amended, as follows:

"Method, System And Program Products For Managing A Clustered Computing Environment," Novaes et al., (Docket No. POU9-2000-0004-US1), Serial No. [_____] <u>09/583,677,</u> filed [herewith] <u>May 31, 2000;</u>

"Method, System And Program Products For Providing Clusters Of A Computing Environment," Novaes et al., (Docket No. POU9-2000-0021-US1), Serial No. [_____] <u>09/583,686,</u> filed [herewith] <u>May 31, 2000;</u>

"Method, System And Program Products For Defining Nodes To A Cluster," Novaes et al., (Docket No. POU9-2000-0011-US1), Serial No. [_____] <u>09/583,582,</u> filed [herewith] <u>May 31, 2000;</u>

"Method, System And Program Products For Controlling System Traffic Of A Clustered Computing Environment," Novaes et al., (Docket No. POU9-2000-0008-US1), Serial No. [_____] <u>09/583,849,</u> filed [herewith] <u>May 31, 2000;</u>

"Method, System And Program Products For Automatically Configuring Clusters Of A Computing Environment," Novaes et al., (Docket No. POU9-2000-0005-US1), Serial No. [_____] <u>09/584,528,</u> filed [herewith] <u>May 31, 2000;</u>

"Method, System And Program Products For Managing Identifiers Of Components Of A Clustered Environment," Novaes et al., (Docket No. POU9-2000-0007-US1), Serial No. [_____] 09/584,935, filed [herewith] May 31, 2000; and

"Method, System And Program Products For Managing Cluster Configurations," Novaes et al., (Docket No. POU9-2000-0096-US1), Serial No. [_____] 09/583,693, filed [herewith] May 31, 2000.

Paragraph 1 on page 64, lines 1-8 has been amended as follows:

Next, the mapping index for one of the equidistant servers is calculated using a predefined equation, STEP 2408. In particular, for k=0 to the number of equidistant servers-1, the mapping index is equal to the [(node_number)mod(number_of_equidistant_servers)+k) mod(number_of_equidistant_servers)], where mod refers to the module operation defined as the integer remainder of a division operation.

In the Claims:

Claims 2 and 3 have been canceled, without prejudice.

New claims 4-72 have been added.